

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-6 (canceled)

Claim 7 (currently amended): A method for synchronizing multiple versions of an object, comprising:

receiving ~~an~~ a multimedia object having an associated unique identifier, metadata and history ~~graph information~~;

~~modifying the object;~~

assigning a new unique identifier to the multimedia object responsive to the multimedia object being modified;

updating the metadata and history ~~graph~~ of the multimedia object to include a node corresponding to the new unique identifier and a vector describing, via the metadata, the modification performed to arrive at the multimedia object corresponding to the new unique identifier.

Claim 8 (currently amended): The method according to claim 7, further comprising:

storing the associated unique identifier, the new unique identifier, the metadata and the history ~~graph~~.

Claim 9 (currently amended): The method according to claim 8, further comprising:

tracking the history of the multimedia object via the associated unique identifier, the new unique identifier, the metadata and the history ~~graph information~~.

Claims 10-21 (canceled)

Claim 22 (currently amended): A computer-readable medium having computer-executable instructions for performing the steps of:

receiving ~~an~~ a multimedia object having an associated unique identifier, metadata and history ~~graph information~~;

~~modifying the object~~;

assigning a new unique identifier to the multimedia object responsive to the multimedia object being modified;

updating the metadata and history ~~graph~~ of the multimedia object to include a node corresponding to the new unique identifier and a vector describing, via the metadata, the modification performed to arrive at the multimedia object corresponding to the new unique identifier.

Claim 23 (currently amended): The computer-readable medium according to claim 22, having further computer-executable instructions for performing the steps of:

storing the associated unique identifier, the new unique identifier, the metadata and the history ~~graph~~.

Claim 24 (currently amended): The computer-readable medium according to claim 23, having further computer-executable instructions for performing the steps of:

tracking the history of the multimedia object via the associated unique identifier, the new unique identifier, the metadata and the history ~~graph information~~.

Claims 25-31 (canceled)

Claim 32 (new): A method for synchronizing multiple versions of an object, comprising:

assigning a multimedia object a first unique identifier;

providing the multimedia object a history having a node representing the first unique identifier of the multimedia object;

responsive to the multimedia object being modified, assigning the modified multimedia object a second unique identifier; and

updating the history to include a node representing the second unique identifier of the multimedia object and to associate the node representing the first unique identifier to the node representing the second unique identifier.

Claim 33 (new): The method according to claim 32, further comprising associating metadata with the modified multimedia object.

Claim 34 (new): The method according to claim 33, wherein the metadata describes how the multimedia object differs from the modified multimedia object.

Claim 35 (new): The method according to claim 33, wherein the metadata describes the modification applied to the multimedia object to obtain the modified multimedia object.

Claim 36 (new): The method according to claim 32, further comprising storing the first and second unique identifiers in a database separate from the multimedia object and the modified multimedia object.

Claim 37 (new): The method according to claim 32, further comprising storing the first and second unique identifiers with the multimedia object and the modified multimedia object, respectively.

Claim 38 (new): An operating system having computer-executable instructions for performing the steps of the method of claim 32.

Claim 39 (new): The method according to claim 32, wherein updating the history includes creating a vector that describes the relationship between the multimedia object associated with the first unique identifier and the modified multimedia object associated with the second unique identifier.

Claim 40 (new): The method according to claim 39, further comprising associating metadata with the vector, the metadata describing the modification applied to the multimedia object to obtain the modified multimedia object.

Claim 41 (new): The method according to claim 32, further comprising receiving the multimedia object prior to assigning the first unique identifier to the multimedia object.

Claim 42 (new): The method according to claim 32, wherein the multimedia object is an image.

Claim 43 (new): The method according to claim 42, wherein the history represents evolution of the image.

Claim 44 (new): The method according to claim 32, further comprising storing portions of the history with the modified multimedia object.

Claim 45 (new): The method according to claim 44, wherein only the recent history is stored with the modified multimedia object.

Claim 46 (new): The method according to claim 32, further comprising transferring the history with the modified multimedia object.

Claim 47 (new): The method according to claim 46, wherein only the recent history is transferred with the modified multimedia object.

Claim 48 (new): The method according to claim 32, further comprising providing an application program interface for other software to retrieve or store the multimedia object or the modified multimedia object.

Claim 49 (new): The method according to claim 48, wherein the application program interface is configured to receive metadata associated with the multimedia object or the modified multimedia object.

Claim 50 (new): The method according to claim 32, wherein assigning the modified multimedia object a second unique identifier includes generating the second unique identifier by one of hashing and cyclic redundancy checking of data representing the modified multimedia object.

Claim 51 (new): The method according to claim 32, further comprising associating the updated history with the modified multimedia object.

Claim 52 (new): A method for synchronizing multiple versions of an object, comprising:
receiving a multimedia object;
assigning the multimedia object a unique identifier and history if the multimedia object does not have an associated unique identifier and history;
responsive to the multimedia object being modified,
assigning the multimedia object a second unique identifier and
updating the history to include a node representing the second unique identifier of the multimedia object and to associate a node representing the unique identifier to the node representing the second unique identifier; and
storing the multimedia object and the history.

Claim 53 (new): A computer readable medium having computer executable instructions stored for performing the method of claim 32.

Claim 54 (new): The method of claim 52, further comprising adding metadata to the history to describe the multimedia object.

Claim 55 (new): A method of comparing multimedia objects comprising:
receiving a multimedia object;
assigning the multimedia object a unique identifier and history if the multimedia object does not have an associated unique identifier and history;
comparing the multimedia object and its associated unique identifier and history with stored multimedia objects including their associated unique identifiers and history; and

determining whether the multimedia object is related to any of the stored multimedia objects based on whether the comparing results indicate that the unique identifiers match or the history overlaps.

Claim 56 (new): The method according to claim 55 further comprising storing or discarding the multimedia object based on whether the multimedia object is related to the stored multimedia objects.

Claim 57 (new): The method according to claim 56, wherein when the multimedia object is related to the stored multimedia objects, the storing or discarding being further based on how the multimedia object is related to the stored multimedia objects.

Claim 58 (new): A computer readable medium having computer executable instructions stored for performing the method of claim 55.